

REMARKS

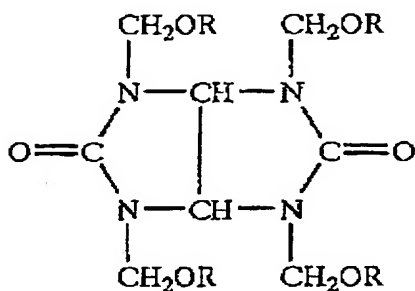
This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2 and 4-12 remain unchanged. Claim 3 has been amended to address the objection raised by the Examiner. Applicants thank the Examiner for the suggestion as how to overcome the objection. Claims 13-20 have been added. Support for claims 13-20 may be found generally throughout the specification and in the original claims. In particular, support for the new claims may be found in the present specification at page 10, line 24 to page 11, line 3.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is traversed.

In imposing the rejection, the Official Action alleged that the phrase "glycoluril resin" is indefinite. However, applicants believe that the phrase is definite to one skilled in the art. For example, the UMINO publication cited by the Official Action discloses a surfaced treated metal sheet having an organic coating. The organic coating comprises an epoxy resin, a "glycoluril resin", and a metal compound on at least one surface of the metal sheet.

At paragraph [0036], UMINO disclose that the glycoluril resin may be represented by the structural formula:



(wherein R is an alkyl group represented by the formula: C_nH_{2n+1} , and n is an integer of 0 or 1 to 2). In this regard, applicants submit that the publication cited by the Official Action itself shows that the phrase is definite to one skilled in the art.

Thus, in view of the above, applicants believe that the phrase is definite to one skilled in the art and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over UMINO et al. in view of applicant's admissions. This rejection is traversed.

UMINO is directed to a surface treated metal sheet having an organic coating comprising an epoxy resin, a glycoluril resin, and a metal compound on at least one surface of the metal sheet. UMINO also discloses a surface treated metal sheet having an intermediate layer comprising a metal on at least one surface of the metal sheet having an organic coating comprising an epoxy

resin and a glycoluril resin on the intermediate layer (see abstract and paragraphs [0012] to [0032]).

Contrary to the assertions of the Official Action, applicants respectfully submit that at best, the epoxy resin could be considered a water dispersible organic resin. UMINO does not disclose or suggest adding a water soluble organic resin to the coating composition. There is certainly no suggestion by UMINO to use a water soluble organic resin and a water dispersible organic resin.

This stands in contrast to the claimed invention, wherein it is believed that the water soluble organic resin permeates minute cracks (irregularities) on the plating surface, and as a result, provides a superior corrosion resistance and other beneficial properties to the black colored steel sheet (see present specification, page 10, line 24 to page 11, line 3).

In this regard, applicants submit that UMINO fails to render obvious the claimed invention.

In an effort to remedy the deficiencies of UMINO for reference purposes, the Official Action cites to the alleged admissions in the present specification.

However, the present specification only acknowledges that black colored steel sheets were known at the time the application was filed. The specification does not suggest that the coating itself or the use of the coating on black colored steel sheets was known at the time the application was filed.

In this regard, applicants respectfully submit that the alleged admissions in the present specification fail to remedy the deficiencies of UMINO for reference purposes.

Thus, the inventors of the present application have discovered for the first time that a paint/coating composition, which contains metal ions, a water soluble organic resin, a water dispersible organic resin, a glycoluril resin, and an acid, provides superior corrosion resistance when applied to a blackened Zn-Ni plated steel sheet (page 6, lines 10-18).

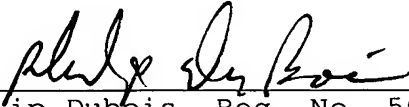
Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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